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DARK AVENGERS®

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ANNUAL 1

DARK AVENGERS

NORMAN OSBORN, FORMER THUNDERBOLTS LEADER, HAS RISEN TO POWER AND WAS APPOINTED TO REPLACE TONY STARK AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TASKFORCE, H.A.M.M.E.R., WHICH INCLUDES HIS OWN TEAM OF AVENGERS.

THEY'RE A GATHERING OF CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES THAT NORMAN HAS GIVEN THE ICONIC LIKENESSES OF MANY OF THE FAMOUS AVENGERS, AS WELL AS THE SECRET IDENTITIES THAT GO WITH THEM. JOINING FORMER MIGHTY AVENGERS ARES AND SENTRY ARE THE ASSASSIN BULLSEYE, NOW HAWKEYE; REFORMED CRIMINAL MOONSTONE, NOW MS. MARVEL; WOLVERINE'S DISTURBED SON DAKEN, NOW WOLVERINE; VENOM HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A NEW SPIDER-MAN; KREE WARRIOR MARVEL BOY TOOK ON THE MANTLE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, AND NORMAN UNVEILED HIS NEW IDENTITY...THE IRON PATRIOT.

NORMAN IS ALSO TRYING TO HELP THE POWERFUL SENTRY DEAL WITH HIS DEMONS WHILE HE CONTINUES TO DEAL WITH HIS OWN. HOW HE HAS BEEN DOING THIS HAS REMAINED A MYSTERY...

THE SENTRY HAS DIED TWICE. ONCE DURING BATTLE AND ONCE AT THE HAND OF HIS OWN LONG-SUFFERING WIFE, LINDY. NO ONE KNOWS HOW HE SURVIVED BOTH FATAL ATTACKS.

AFTER DISCOVERING NORMAN'S TEAM OF AVENGERS IS IN FACT A GROUP OF MADMEN AND ASSASSINS, NOH-VARR (AKA MARVEL BOY) FLED AVENGERS TOWER AND HAS NOT BEEN SEEN OR HEARD FROM SINCE.

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE KREE EMPIRE.
MY NAME IS NOH-VARR.
I WAS AN ENSIGN ABOARD THE 18TH KREE DIPLOMATIC GESTALT INTERSTELLAR SCHOONER CALLED *THE MARVEL*.
I HAVE TRAVELLED ACROSS MILLIONS OF ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS AND AM NOW TRAPPED ON ONE OF THE PLANET EARTHS.
I HAVE WARRED AGAINST THESE HUMANS...I HAVE BEFRIENDED AND TRIED TO DEFEND THESE HUMANS...
BUT NOW I NEED TO KNOW...

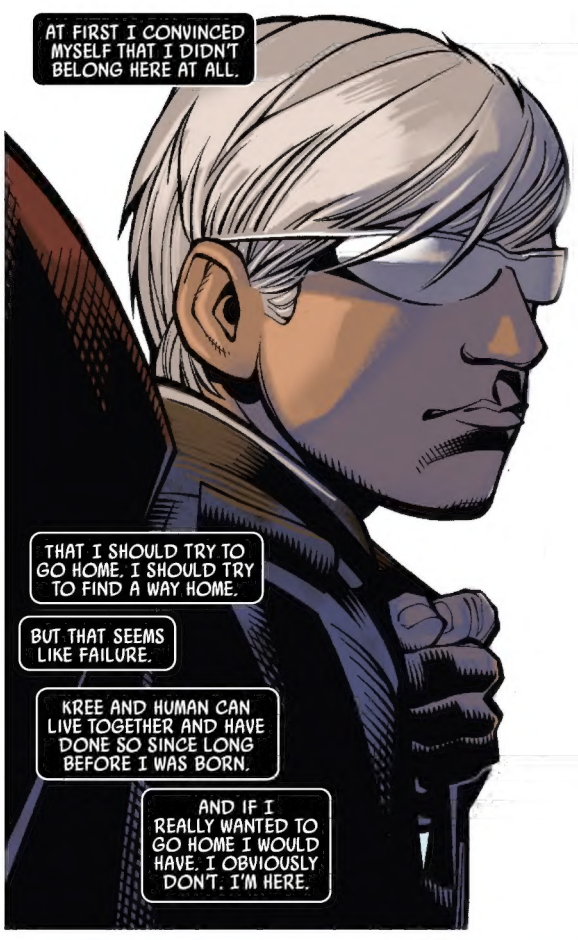
WHY AM I HERE?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE DOING HERE?
001
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

I NEED TO KNOW.
I NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU.
SO I HAVE NOW DEDICATED MY EVERY WAKING MOMENT TO COBBLING TOGETHER THE TECH I NEED TO TRY TO CONTACT YOU.
IT TAKES DAYS--SOMETIMES WEEKS--TO FIND THE NECESSARY COMPONENTS.
AND EVEN MORE DAYS AND WEEKS TO FUSE THOSE COMPONENTS INTO SOMETHING CLOSE TO KREE-COMPATIBLE.

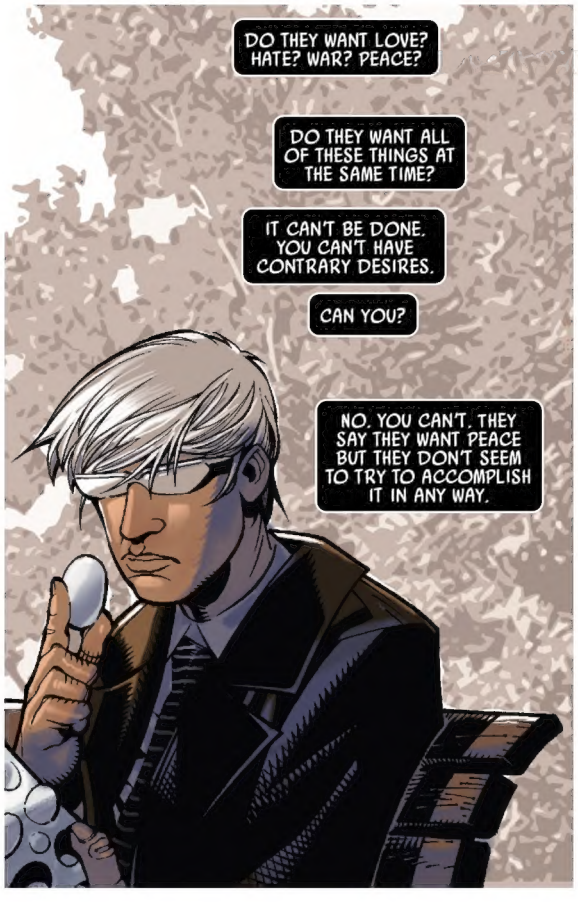
ALL SO I CAN SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE. SO I CAN BEG FOR YOUR RESPONSE.
BUT EVERY TIME I DO, I KNOW THAT SOMEONE HERE ON EARTH KNOWS WHAT I HAVE DONE.

YOU CAN'T CONTACT DEEP SPACE WITHOUT SOMEONE ON EARTH NOTICING IT.

YOU CAN'T CALL OUT THIS FAR WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION.


AT FIRST I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT I DIDN'T BELONG HERE AT ALL.
THAT I SHOULD TRY TO GO HOME. I SHOULD TRY TO FIND A WAY HOME.
BUT THAT SEEMS LIKE FAILURE.
KREE AND HUMAN CAN LIVE TOGETHER AND HAVE DONE SO SINCE LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN.
AND IF I REALLY WANTED TO GO HOME I WOULD HAVE. I OBVIOUSLY DON'T. I'M HERE.

MY FRUSTRATION IS THAT I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HUMANS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.
AS A SPECIES.
THE CUSTOMS IN WHICH I WAS RAISED...MY PEOPLE... OUR SOCIETY HAD REFINED ITSELF TO PERFECTION.
OUR GOALS AS KREE ARE SO PERFECT AND NOBLE THAT FROM MY PERSPECTIVE I CAN'T TELL WHAT THE HUMAN RACE WANTS...


DO THEY WANT LOVE? HATE? WAR? PEACE?
DO THEY WANT ALL OF THESE THINGS AT THE SAME TIME?
IT CAN'T BE DONE. YOU CAN'T HAVE CONTRARY DESIRES.
CAN YOU?
NO. YOU CAN'T. THEY SAY THEY WANT PEACE BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO TRY TO ACCOMPLISH IT IN ANY WAY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.
NO! NO, YOU DON'T GET TO HAVE ME AS A GIRLFRIEND OR A FRIEND!
STOP YELLING AT ME.
I'M YELLING AT YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T HEAR ME IF I TALK LIKE A NORMAL PERSON!

ANNIE!
COME ON!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY ACT THE WAY THEY DO.
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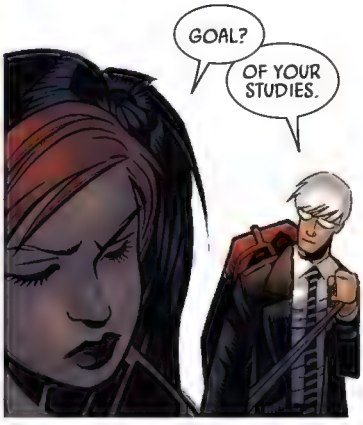
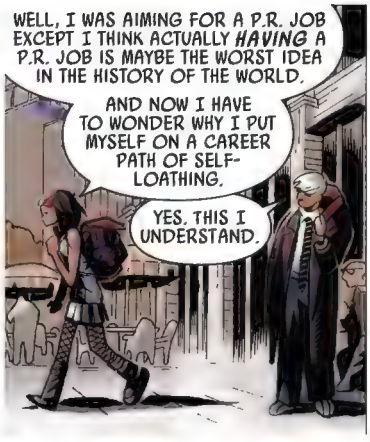
TWO YEARS OF MY LIFE...
WHAT DID HE DO?
AGH!
DID HE HURT YOU?
WHAT?
I HEARD--
YOU HEARD *WHAT?*
YOU WERE YELLING.
AND YOU THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO *HIT ON ME?*
YOU THOUGHT *THIS* WAS THE IDEAL TIME TO STALK ME DOWN THE *STREET AND HIT ON ME?*
I WAS CURIOUS.
MY APOLOGIES.
NO. STOP.
I'M SORRY.
I'VE UPSET YOU.
NO. NO.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WAIT--WHO *ARE* YOU? YOU LOOK FAMILIAR.
I BELIEVE I ASKED YOU FIRST.
WHO ARE YOU?

I'M ANNIE.
WHAT DO YOU DO, AN-NIE?
I--NO. IT'S ANNIE. I GO TO SCHOOL. HERE.
THIS IS A SCHOOL?
UH, YEAH, IT'S NYU.
IS IT SOMETHING ONE WOULD KNOW?
I'M NEW TO THE AREA.
ARE YOU PLAYING AROUND?
OKAY, WHO ARE YOU?
(BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR FACE.)

WHAT DO YOU STUDY?
I'M IN COMMUNICATIONS.
(I KNOW YOUR FACE.)
WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THAT?


GOAL?
OF YOUR STUDIES.


WELL, I WAS AIMING FOR A P.R. JOB EXCEPT I THINK ACTUALLY HAVING A P.R. JOB IS MAYBE THE WORST IDEA IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
AND NOW I HAVE TO WONDER WHY I PUT MYSELF ON A CAREER PATH OF SELF-LOATHING.
YES. THIS I UNDERSTAND.

AND NOW I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER THE WORLD THAT WOULD ACTUALLY MAKE ME HAPPY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

I WANT TO-- I WANT TO BE A SUPER HERO.

ME TOO.

OKAY.
WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS NOH.

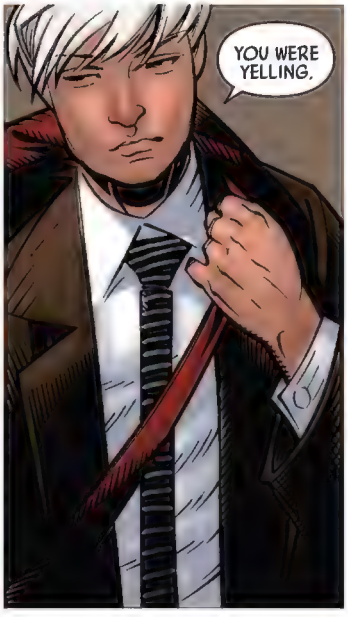
YOUR NAME IS NO? WHAT IS THAT? IS THAT FOREIGN?

YES. VERY MUCH SO.

YOU ARE SO ODD.

YES.

SO I WAS *THAT* LOUD?


YOU WERE YELLING.

THIS IS MY LIFE?
YELLING IN THE STREET??
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING MISTER NO...

I'M REALLY EMBARRASSED.
I STILL AM.
YOU WERE ANGRY.
DID HE BETRAY YOU?
YES! YES, HE DID.
WHY DO PEOPLE DO THAT? I--I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!
IT SEEMS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
YES, YES, IT'S EXACTLY THAT.
IT ALSO EVINCES A LACK OF CHARACTER.
YES.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HUMAN SEXUALITY.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M A TRAVELLER.
A NAME. A NAME OR WE'RE DONE WITH THIS.
WITH WHAT?
WITH CONVERSING. I DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS. NOT EVEN VAGUELY FAMILIAR STRANGERS.
MY NAME IS NOH-VARR AND I'M--
VARR IS YOUR LAST NAME?
NO. MY NAME IS--
OH MY GOD...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T RUN.
DON'T.
AAAIIEEE!!!

TOOM TOOM TOOM

WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?

NORMAN WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

HOLY--!

DUMB @#%$ LUCK.

THEN YOU'LL HATE THIS.

YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD.

THIS ALIEN STUFF OF YOURS... I DON'T GET IT AND I'M NOT A FAN.

FABOOM

HE TOLD ME DEAD OR ALIVE.

DON'T PUSH THE ISSUE.

WHOA! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

THAT DUDE IS TRYING TO HIT THE OTHER DUDE.

REALLY? THANKS FOR THAT.

KRASSHH

OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.

AGH!

THOOM

WHOA!

JEEZ!

WHY ARE YOU *FIGHTING* ME?
I AM DEFENDING MYSELF. YOU ATTACKED ME.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU. I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU TO OSBORN.
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO OSBORN. I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM. THIS IS WHY I LEFT.
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?
I FOUND OUT WHO YOU PEOPLE REALLY ARE.
WE'RE THE AVENGERS.
YOU'RE CRIMINALS AND SOME OF YOU ARE INSANE.
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
I DO NOT KNOW YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO OSBORN OR WHAT PROMISES HE MADE TO YOU...BUT HE LIED TO ME AND GOT ME ON HIS TEAM UNDER THE FALSEST OF PRETENSES.
HE USED MY IGNORANCE OF HUMAN CULTURE TO CONVINCE ME HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN.
HE LIED TO ME AND I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
NOW I FOLLOW MY OWN PATH.
YOU AND HE CAN TALK IT OUT THEN.
NO. YOU'LL LET ME GO.
YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD FIGHTER BUT I'VE GOT YOU NOW. YOU KNOW I DO. JUST BE SMART AND WE'LL BE AT THE--
WHICH ARE YOU?
WHAT?
CRIMINAL OR INSANE?
I'M NEITHER.
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE BOTH.
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING MEAN.
YOU'RE BEING USED AND TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF. I'LL HELP YOU IF YOU'LL LET ME.
HELP ME?
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT YOU ARE! AND I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW, EITHER.
YOU'RE TRYING TO UPSET ME, BUT IT WON'T--

BOOM
AAGGH!!
WHOA! WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
I--I DON'T KNOW.
SCRACH
UH-OH.

TOOM TOOM TOOM
HUH.
OKAY.

NYAA!!
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
OHMYGOD OHMYGOD
OHMYGOD OHMYGOD
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE KREE EMPIRE.
MY NAME IS NOH-VARR...
OKAY, THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING THING I HAVE EVER SEEN.
CAN WE SELL THEM? WE SHOULD TOTALLY SELL THEM.
YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE TOUCHING THOSE.
YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW YOURSELVES UP.

I WAS AN ENSIGN ABOARD THE 18TH KREE DIPLOMATIC GESTALT INTERSTELLAR SCHOONER CALLED *THE MARVEL*...
LADY, WHY DON'T YOU CRAWL BACK INTO THE--
OH, UH, HERE YOU GO.
I HAVE TRAVELLED ACROSS MILLIONS OF ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS AND AM NOW TRAPPED ON ONE OF THE PLANET EARTHS.
I HAVE WARRED AGAINST THESE HUMANS...I HAVE BEFRIENDED AND TRIED TO DEFEND THESE HUMANS...
BUT NOW I NEED TO KNOW...

TROUT
DID ANY OF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE WHERE HE WENT OFF TO?
WHY AM I HERE?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE DOING HERE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

NOH-VARR, YOUR CALL HAS BEEN HEARD AND THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE OF THE EMPIRE WILL NOW RESPOND.
THE UGLINESS OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE'S LAST GASPS AT RELEVANCE IN THE UNIVERSE HAVE PUT THE EARTH IN MORE JEOPARDY THAN EVER BEFORE.
YOUR ACTIONS DURING THEIR INVASION WERE HEROIC AND INSPIRING TO YOUR BROTHERS HERE ON THE KREE HOMEWORLD.
THE EARTH IS AND SHALL EVER BE PROTECTED BY THE EMPIRE...AND NOW IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT A NEW PROTECTOR IS NEEDED.
THE INTELLIGENCE HAS DECIDED THAT *YOU*, NOH-VARR, ARE TO BE THAT PROTECTOR.
YOU WILL STUDY UNDER THE LEADERS OF THE HUMAN RACE, LEARN FROM THEM, AND PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.
YOU WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK DESTRUCTION AND INVASION.
YOU WILL BE EARTH'S RUHI-TUGU. YOU WILL BE ITS PROTECTOR.

IT CAN'T BE--THIS IS NOT A TASK FOR JUST ME ALONE.
YOU ARE PART OF THE EMPIRE...THUS, YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.
BUT GREATER POWER AND ABILITY IS WHAT YOU REQUIRE...
LIKE MAR-VELL BEFORE YOU, AS EARTH'S PROTECTOR, YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE NEGA-BANDS.
BUT THESE BANDS ARE OF A DIFFERENT DESIGN AND DIFFERENT POWER SOURCE THAN THE ONES MAR-VELL WORE WITH CONTROVERSY AND HONOR.
THESE WERE CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
THEY ARE FAR MORE ADVANCED AND FAR MORE PRECIOUS.
YOU WILL BE EMPOWERED TO ACT AND YOU WILL HAVE THE POWER TO ACT.
AAGGHH!
KNOW THAT THE EMPIRE IS WATCHING YOU.

KNOW THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE.

I WANT EVERYONE IN THE AREA QUESTIONED AND--

@#$% HIM, OSBORN, YOU WANT TO GO CHASING *THIS* GUY?

IF HE STICKS HIS NOSE OUT, SURE, WE'LL CUT IT OFF. BUT WHY WASTE ONE--

REALLY, I SHOULD LET THE **ONE** ALIEN UNDER **MY** SUPERVISION RUN AROUND UNSUPERVISED?

DO YOU REMEMBER **HOW** I EVEN GOT INTO POWER?

ALL RIGHT.

I GOT INTO POWER WITH A PROMISE OF PROTECTING THE WORLD FROM THREATS IT CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF FROM.

ALIEN THREATS WERE THE--

OKAY.

SO, NO, WE **CANNOT JUST** LET HIM FLIT AROUND AND DO WHATEVER!!

BOB, YOU FOUND HIM THE FIRST TIME.

HE HAD AN AURA.

CAN YOU FIND IT AGAIN?

IT'S NOT THERE.

AURA?

I FOUND HIM THE FIRST TIME, DIDN'T I?

IT'S GONE. IT'S NOT THERE NOW.

DAKEN?

DEAD TRAIL.

SNIFF HARDER.

MAYBE YOU SCARED HIM OFF?

QUESTION THE CROWD AND I WANT TO SEE CAMPUS SECURITY FOOTAGE IF THERE'S ANY.

SEE IF ANYONE STARTED RECORDING THE FIGHT. OFFER MONEY FOR IT.

YES, SIR.

ARMOR LOOKS FAKE.

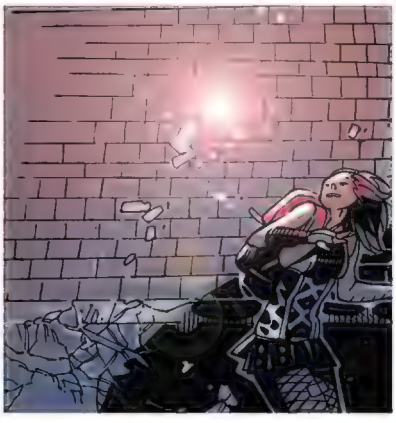
MAN, I'D SHUT UP!

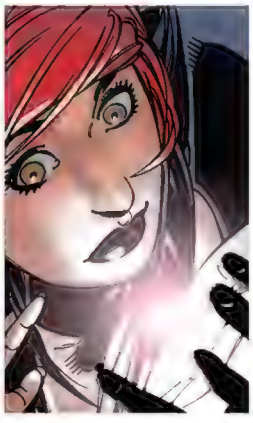
IT LOOKS PLASTIC.

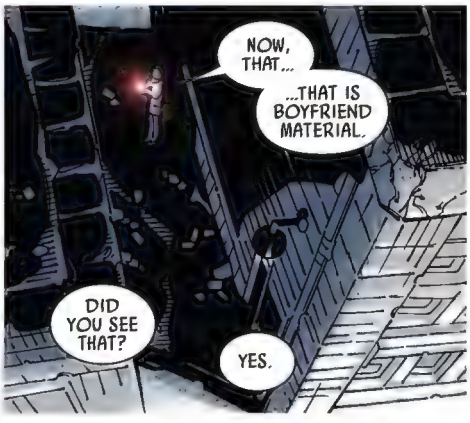
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE INSANE.
WHAT?
AND WORSE YET, IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW YOU'RE INSANE.
I CAN'T EXPRESS AN OBSERVATION?
ABOUT NORMAN OSBORN IN FRONT OF NORMAN OSBORN?
FREE COUNTRY.
YEAH, SURE, RIGHT.

NO! NO, YOU HAVE TO RUN. THEY'RE HERE. THEY'LL FIND YOU.
NO. THEY WON'T.
THEY DID BEFORE.
I'M DIFFERENT NOW.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I'M STILL LEARNING THAT.
I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I HAVE IT WORKED OUT BETTER.
BUT I CAME HERE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SELFLESSNESS.
YEAH, WELL, THAT WAS THE CRAZIEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE IN MY LIFE.
AND I THANK YOU.
WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU?
BECAUSE I KNOW THE TRUTH.
ABOUT NORMAN OSBORN.
YES.
THAT OSBORN IS A @#$%?
YES.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'M GOING TO WAIT FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT AND I'M GOING TO STRIKE.
OKAY. OKAY, WELL...UM...
WHEN YOU'RE DONE...
COME FIND ME AGAIN?
FOR COMPANIONSHIP.

I SEE...
I'M HERE TO PROTECT... EVERYONE.
TO GUIDE THEM TOWARDS WHAT THEY WANT.
WOW. WELL, THAT'S--
BUT...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.
PEACE, LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING.
NO. I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.
HMM. MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
COMFORT.
I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
WOW.
I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN.






NOW, THAT...
...THAT IS BOYFRIEND MATERIAL.
DID YOU SEE THAT?
YES.

SEEMS HE HAS MORE POWER THAN THE INTEL INTIMATED.
MIGHT BE A NEW POWER SET.
MIGHT BE OSBORN'S DOING.
EITHER WAY IT BACKFIRED ON HIM.
GOOD.
I DON'T KNOW. HE'S A BIG UNKNOWN.
HE'S FIRE-POWER AND HE'S ON OUR SIDE.
MAYBE. MAYBE HE'S ON OUR SIDE.

STEVE, IF HE'S NOT ON OSBORN'S SIDE, HE'S ON OUR SIDE.
TO BE CONTINUED...IN SIEGE

MIKE DEODATO JR.

CIRCA 1600 BCE.
THE LORD SPOKE TO ME AND HE SAID: I WILL BRING ONE MORE PLAGUE ON PHARAOH AND ON EGYPT.
HE SAID: YOU MUST GO AND MARK WITH LAMB'S BLOOD THE DOORPOSTS OF EVERY HEBREW DOOR.
THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL THE LORD KNOW THIS IS A HEBREW HOUSE. HE WILL THEN KNOW TO PASS OVER IT.
AND HE WILL THEN SPARE ALL THE ISRAELITE FIRSTBORN.
WHILE EVERY FIRSTBORN SON IN EGYPT WILL DIE.
FROM THE FIRSTBORN SON OF PHARAOH, TO THE FIRSTBORN SON OF THE SLAVE.
THEN YOU WILL KNOW...

...THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOD.

TWO MONTHS AGO.
BECAUSE NO ONE HAS UNDERSTOOD YOU LIKE I DO.
BELIEVE ME, ROBERT, THIS ROAD WE'RE ON, IT'S A TOUGH ONE, BUT WHEN IT WORKS...
WHEN THOSE MOMENTS HAPPEN...
IT'S ALL WORTH IT.
VICTORIA, THIS IS OSBORN. I WANT YOU TO SEND SOMEONE OUT TO 5 GUYS BURGERS AND FRIES.
ORDER FOR EVERYONE: CHEESEBURGERS, SHAKES, FRIES, BACON BURGERS, ONION RINGS...
ORDER EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT. LET ME KNOW WHEN IT'S HERE.
WHAT? NO, I'M NOT JOKING.
5 GUYS BURGERS.
YOU'RE GOING TO FAINT FROM HAPPINESS.
THANK YOU. FOR THIS.
NO WORRIES.
LISTEN, I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU.
SOMETHING I THINK WILL MAKE YOU VERY HAPPY.
AS I SAID, YOUR FILE WAS VERY THOROUGH, AND BEFORE I CAME TO VISIT YOU I WENT THROUGH ALL THE FILES...
OF THE MAN YOU CALLED "THE PROFESSOR."

IS THAT--
IS THAT--?
I WANT YOU TO KNOW, BEFORE HE DIED, HE CAME TO REALIZE THAT YOU WERE HIS GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT.
YOU ARE A ONE-OF-A-KIND SCIENTIFIC MIRACLE.
IT IS.
IS THIS THE SERUM? IS THIS IT?
IS IT FOR ME?
IT IS, AND YOU KNOW WHY IT'S JUST FOR YOU? BECAUSE IT DOESN'T WORK ON ANYONE ELSE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.
JUST YOU.
YOU'RE LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA, THAT WAY.
OH MY GOD.
AND I CAN MAKE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
I HAVE MEN, TOP MEN, WORKING TO MAKE SURE I HAVE IT FOR YOU.
I SET UP A SUPER-SECRET LABORATORY, STATE OF THE ART, TO KEEP MY GOLDEN AVENGER HAPPY.
TONY STARK COULD HAVE DONE THIS FOR YOU, EASILY. HE WAS WRONG NOT TO.
YES.
GO.

GARR!

MMMPAGH!!

OH MY.

EVERYTHING... ALL RIGHT?

I REALLY NEEDED THAT.

YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN?

NO.

NO...

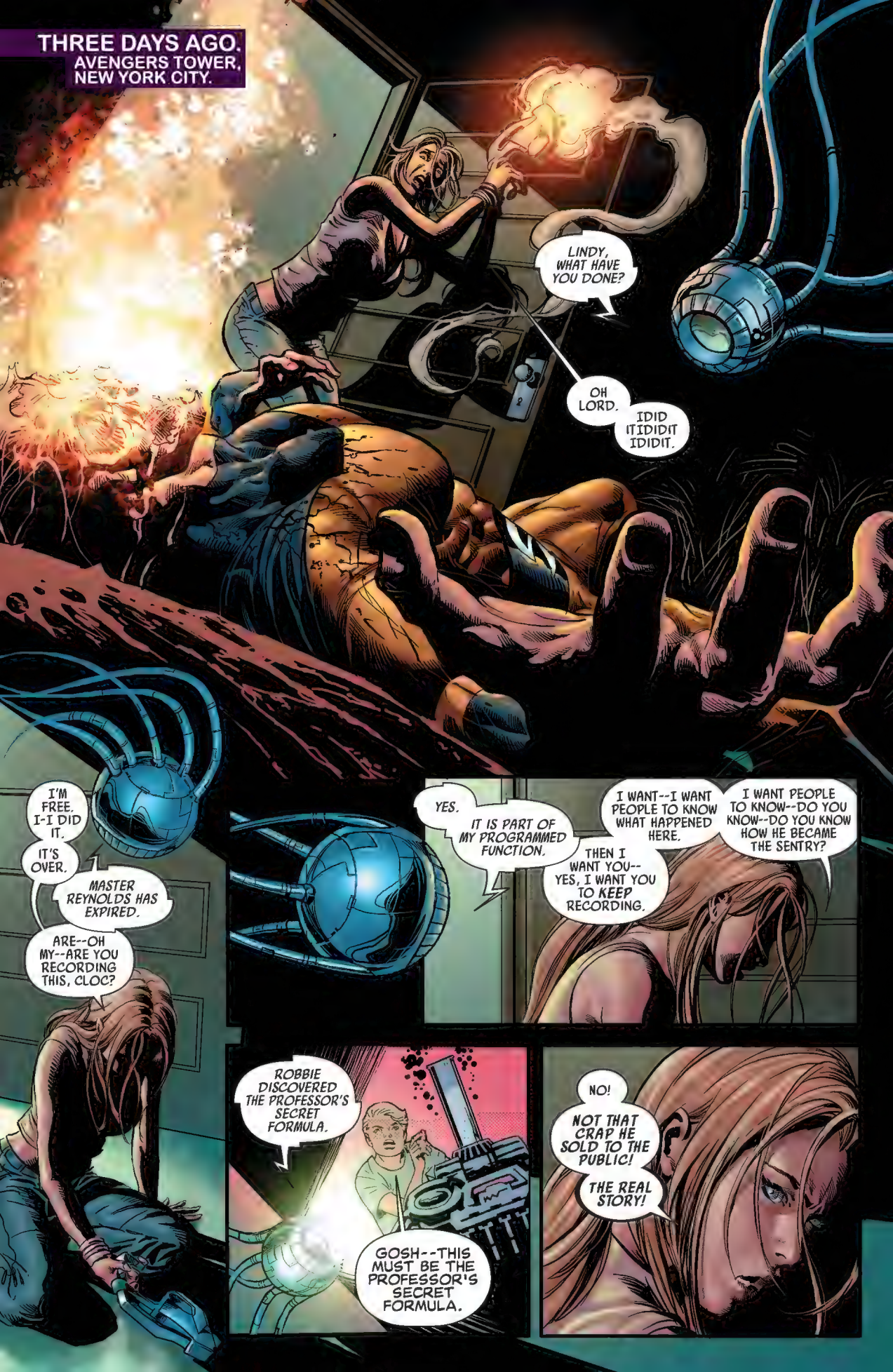
MISTER OSBORN, I CLEARLY--MMM!

I OWE YOU ONE.

WHAT?

YES, YOU DO. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MAKES YOU?

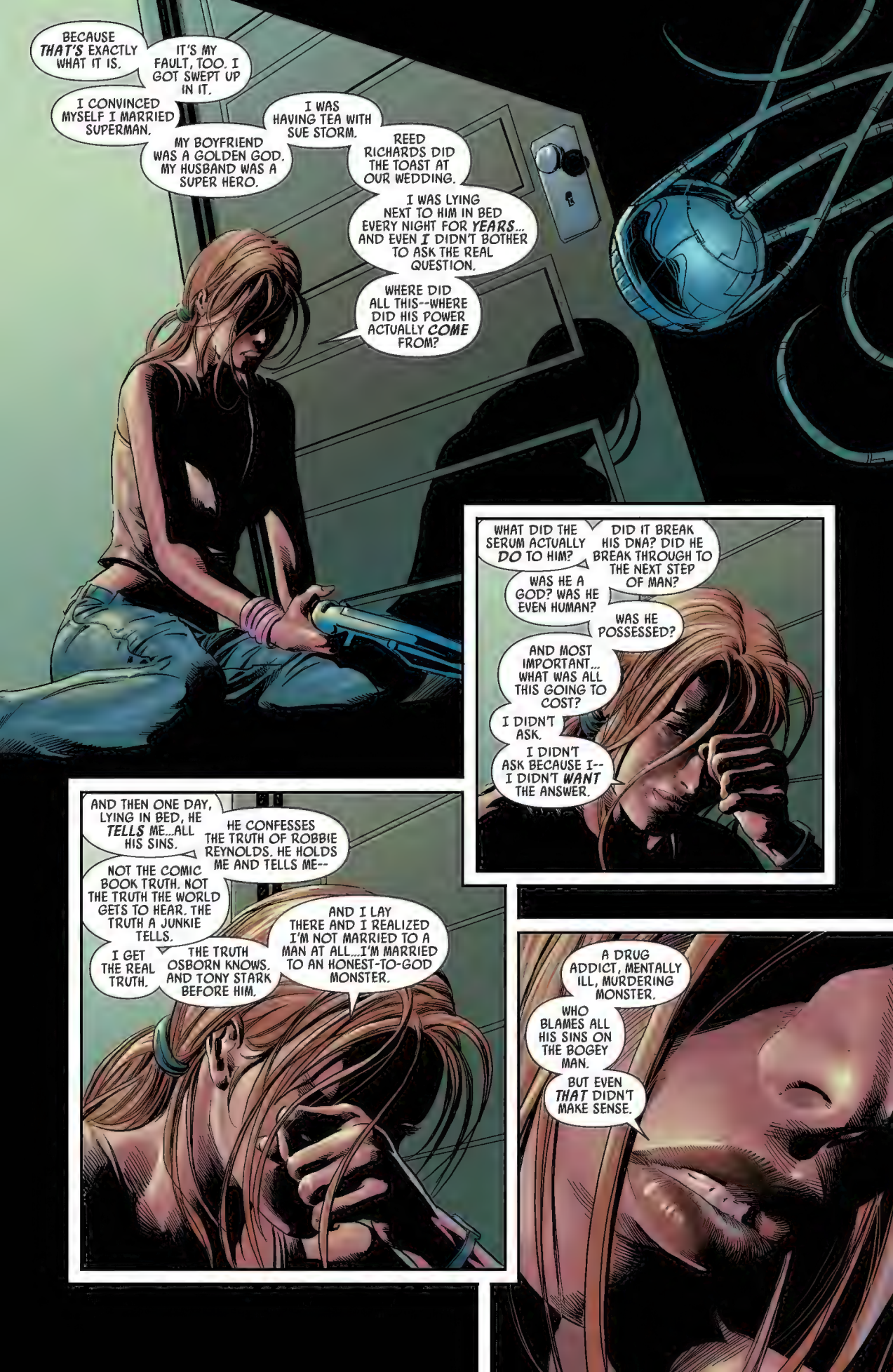
MY SECRET WEAPON.


THREE DAYS AGO.
AVENGERS TOWER, NEW YORK CITY.
LINDY, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
OH LORD.
IDID ITIDIDIT IDIDIT.
I'M FREE. I-I DID IT.
IT'S OVER.
MASTER REYNOLDS HAS EXPIRED.
ARE--OH MY--ARE YOU RECORDING THIS, CLOC?
YES.
IT IS PART OF MY PROGRAMMED FUNCTION.
I WANT--I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW--DO YOU KNOW--DO YOU KNOW HOW HE BECAME THE SENTRY?
THEN I WANT YOU-- YES, I WANT YOU TO KEEP RECORDING.
ROBBIE DISCOVERED THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET FORMULA.
GOSH--THIS MUST BE THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET FORMULA.
NO!
NOT THAT CRAP HE SOLD TO THE PUBLIC!
THE REAL STORY!

"DO YOU KNOW HOW HE EVEN ENDED UP IN THAT LAB IN THE FIRST PLACE? DO YOU KNOW HOW?
"HE BROKE IN THERE LOOKING FOR DRUGS. LOOKING FOR--FOR--FOR METH WORKS.
"HE WAS AN ADDICT.
"HE WAS A JUNKIE.
"AND GUESS WHAT? AS ONLY A JUNKIE CAN, HE FELL ASS-BACKWARDS INTO ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERING HIS ULTIMATE DRUG.
"THE ULTIMATE HIGH.
"HE FOUND WHAT HE CALLED A--A SERUM.
DO NOT TOUCH
"BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS.
SMASH
WHOA.
WHAT IS IT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WANT SOME.

"AN UNTESTED SOMETHING THAT EVENTUALLY TURNED HIM INTO THIS--WHAT?
"DO WE KNOW? DOES HE EVEN KNOW?
"WHAT DID HE TURN INTO? WHAT EXACTLY IS THE POWER OF A THOUSAND EXPLODING SUNS?
"WHAT IS THE SENTRY?
DUDE!
DUDE?!
AAGGH!!
SMASSHH
NGGAA!
HANDS IN THE AIR!
WE HAVE A BREAK-IN!
BUILDING NINE. TH-THE LAB. OVER?
IN THE AIR!
OH, MAN!
"AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
"YOU KNOW THE REAL BIG SECRET OF THE SENTRY?

OH, MY.
OH, MY OH, MY OH, MY.
"HE DIDN'T JUST TAKE THAT SERUM ONCE.
"ONCE WAS AN ACCIDENT. ONCE WAS A STUPID KID DOING A STUPID THING.
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
WAS THIS YOUR LAB, SIR?
YES--YES. MY LIFE'S WORK.
BUT IT'S ALL--IT'S ALL...
CAN YOU FIX IT?
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO, WON'T I?
"HIS SECRET IS: ONCE HE GOT A TASTE OF IT--OF THE POWER--HE DID WHAT EVERY JUNKIE DOES.
YOU CAN MAKE MORE?
"HE DID WHATEVER HE COULD TO GET WHATEVER HE NEEDED.
"DOES THAT *SOUND* LIKE THE ORIGIN OF A GOLDEN SUPER HERO TO YOU?
"NO? THEN WHAT *DOES* IT SOUND LIKE THE ORIGIN OF?
"THEN WHAT DOES IT SOUND LIKE?"


BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.
IT'S MY FAULT, TOO. I GOT SWEPT UP IN IT.
I CONVINCED MYSELF I MARRIED SUPERMAN.
I WAS HAVING TEA WITH SUE STORM.
MY BOYFRIEND WAS A GOLDEN GOD. MY HUSBAND WAS A SUPER HERO.
REED RICHARDS DID THE TOAST AT OUR WEDDING.
I WAS LYING NEXT TO HIM IN BED EVERY NIGHT FOR YEARS... AND EVEN I DIDN'T BOTHER TO ASK THE REAL QUESTION.
WHERE DID ALL THIS--WHERE DID HIS POWER ACTUALLY COME FROM?
WHAT DID THE SERUM ACTUALLY DO TO HIM?
DID IT BREAK HIS DNA? DID HE BREAK THROUGH TO THE NEXT STEP OF MAN?
WAS HE A GOD? WAS HE EVEN HUMAN?
WAS HE POSSESSED?
AND MOST IMPORTANT... WHAT WAS ALL THIS GOING TO COST?
I DIDN'T ASK.
I DIDN'T ASK BECAUSE I-- I DIDN'T WANT THE ANSWER.
AND THEN ONE DAY, LYING IN BED, HE TELLS ME...ALL HIS SINS.
HE CONFESSES THE TRUTH OF ROBBIE REYNOLDS. HE HOLDS ME AND TELLS ME--
NOT THE COMIC BOOK TRUTH. NOT THE TRUTH THE WORLD GETS TO HEAR. THE TRUTH A JUNKIE TELLS.
I GET THE REAL TRUTH.
THE TRUTH OSBORN KNOWS. AND TONY STARK BEFORE HIM.
AND I LAY THERE AND I REALIZED I'M NOT MARRIED TO A MAN AT ALL...I'M MARRIED TO AN HONEST-TO-GOD MONSTER.
A DRUG ADDICT, MENTALLY ILL, MURDERING MONSTER.
WHO BLAMES ALL HIS SINS ON THE BOGEY MAN.
BUT EVEN THAT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE.

"HE DRESSED THE PART. HE LOOKED THE PART.
"BUT I REALIZED THAT I'VE MET TRUE HEROES, I'VE SEEN THEM UP CLOSE...
"I'VE SEEN WHAT KIND OF *SPECIAL* MAN IT TAKES TO STAND FOR SOMETHING LARGER THAN HIMSELF.
"I'VE SEEN WHAT KIND OF *SPECIAL* MAN IT TAKES TO WIELD POWER. TO CONTROL IT. TO NOT LET IT CONTROL YOU.
"IT TAKES A SPECIAL MAN OF INTEGRITY AND SPIRIT.
"A *'ONE IN A MILLION'* MAN.
"AND MAYBE YOU CAN BLAME BOB FOR NOT BEING THAT MAN, AND MAYBE THAT'S JUST NOT FAIR--BUT HE *NEVER* WAS.
"HE WAS *NEVER* CAPTAIN AMERICA. ONLY CAPTAIN AMERICA IS, REALLY.
"THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM CAPTAIN AMERICA.
"BOB WAS NOT AND NEVER WOULD BE *THAT* GUY. HE WASN'T WIRED THAT WAY. HE WAS SOMETHING ELSE.
"BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT--THAT AN ADDICT IS AN ADDICT.
"INSTEAD OF DRUGS... IT BECAME ABOUT POWER. HE WAS ADDICTED TO THE SENTRY.
"AND HE HAD JUST AS MUCH *CONTROL* OVER *THAT* AS HE DID THE OTHER.
"SO THAT ANSWERS THE QUESTION, RIGHT? WHO IS THE SENTRY? WHO IS THE VOID?
"IT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T DESERVE THE POWER GETS THE POWER."

AND IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S AMAZING THAT IT HASN'T HAPPENED MORE OFTEN.
I HAVE A THEORY.
I THINK BOB, WHEN HE DRANK THAT DRUG, ACCIDENTALLY OPENED UP... SOMETHING.
HE BECAME A PART OF SOMETHING LARGER AND CRAZIER THAN ANYONE HAS EVEN CONSIDERED.
"I THINK HIS ENERGY CAME FROM SOMETHING OF--OF MAYBE BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS.
"MOSES, JESUS, WHAT WAS THEIR POWER? WHERE DID IT COME FROM? HOW DID THEY GET IT? REALLY?
"GOD? BUT STILL, HOW? WHAT WOULD POWERFUL PEOPLE LIKE *THAT* LOOK LIKE *TODAY?*
"I KNOW. IT'S SACRILEGE. CRAZY. I KNOW. AND I HAVE NO PROOF."
JUST SUNDAY SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHY I NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE.
BUT THOSE MEN HAD POWER AND IT DESTROYED THEM.
"THEY WERE SACRIFICED.
"*WHAT'S* THE DIFFERENCE, EXACTLY?"
NOOOOO...
I'VE GOT YOU, LINDY.
IT'S... OKAY.
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM ON OUR WEDDING NIGHT.
OBVIOUSLY, IT HURTS TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.

IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE PUT MORE INTO THIS MARRIAGE THAN YOU WERE EVER GOING TO.
I AM GALACTUS... DEVOURER OF WORLDS.
OH GOD!
OH GOD!
WHAT ARE YOU???!
OH, LINDY, NO.
NOOO...

SLASH
AAIIEE!!
LINDY, YOU'RE NOT TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT OF THIS MARRIAGE.
I WANT SOME MORE OF THESE THEORIES OF YOURS. THEY'RE HILARIOUS.
PLEASE, PLEASE LET ME GO!
PLEASE!
YOU WANT OUT OF THIS? YOU REALLY WANT TO GET AWAY FROM ME? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
PLEASE.
YOU'RE ONLY STILL HERE BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU.
AND HE DOES.
AND YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT BETRAY HIM!
HE TOLD YOU HIS DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRETS.
YOU SEE ME AS THE ENEMY. YOU'RE THE ENEMY!
YOU'RE THE BETRAYER.
YOU MADE A PROMISE, LINDY. YOU'RE A LIAR.
PLEASE JUST LET ME GO.
JUST KILL ME.
ONLY BECAUSE YOU WERE POLITE ENOUGH TO BEG ME.

NO! YOU PROMISED.
WE HAD A DEAL!
NOT HER!
YOU DON'T TOUCH HER.
THAT WAS THEN.
SHE ASKED ME TO. SHE FLAT OUT BEGGED--
NO!
YOU DON'T TOUCH HER.
I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE AT THIS POINT THAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE MUCH EASIER WITHOUT HER.
NO!
SHE'S ONLY MADE IT MORE COMPLICATED.
NO!
SHE DOESN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE!!
YOU DON'T TOUCH HER.
AS ALWAYS...
YOU WILL THANK ME LATER.

NO!
NOW YOU SEE...
...HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ROBERT?
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME.
YOU'VE TRIED THAT BEFORE.

ROBERT?
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH?
YOU TRIED TO MAKE THE WORLD FORGET WE EXISTED... THAT DIDN'T WORK.
YOU TRIED TO PRETEND I DIDN'T EXIST. HOPING WHAT? THAT I'D GO AWAY?
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME. NOTHING.
YOU FLEW ALL THE WAY TO ANOTHER PLANET...THAT DIDN'T WORK.
AND NOW THIS?
YOU'VE TRIED THIS, RIGHT?

BOB?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

ROBERT?

ROBERT, OH, NO. NO NO NO.
YOU'D KILL YOURSELF TO GET RID OF ME?
THIS IS THE ACT OF A COWARD.
YOU'RE ONLY PROVING HER POINT.
YOU WANT TO BE A HERO? THIS IS HARDLY WHAT HEROES DO. THIS IS WHAT COWARDS DO.
BUT THAT'S OKAY. I'M NOT JUDGING YOU. I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.
SO YOU'RE NOT A HERO. YOU'RE ME.
YOU'RE A FORCE. LINDY WAS RIGHT. YOU'RE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN BOTH OF US.
YOU ARE GOD.
AND ROBERT, I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL THIS TO YOU, ESPECIALLY NOW, SINCE YOU WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE...
BUT THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
YOU DON'T WANT IT ENOUGH.
YOU'RE JUST PUNISHING YOURSELF TO PUNISH YOURSELF.
NOW, WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING IS LISTENING TO THAT MOP OF A WIFE OF YOURS.
SHE WAS MAKING SENSE.

YOU'RE ANGRY BECAUSE SHE WAS RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT A HERO.
YOU'RE NOT.
IT'S NICE THAT YOU WANT TO BE, BUT YOU'RE NOT.
WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A SUPER HERO? OR A DRUMMER OR PRESIDENT?
YOU'RE NOT.

YOU'RE ME. AND INSTEAD OF FIGHTING ME (WITH NO RESULT...)
YOU SHOULD JUST TAKE A STEP BACK AND LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED AS THE SENTRY.
NOTHING.

NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.
YOU'VE MADE A MESS OUT OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE COME NEAR.
YOU HIDE, YOU MOPE. YOU RUN.
AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST SIT BACK AND LET ME DO WHAT I DO.

YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING? YOU WANT TO HAVE AN IMPACT?
ALLOW ME.
I'VE DONE IT BEFORE.
AND SOMETHING GOOD ALWAYS CAME OUT OF IT IN THE LONG RUN.
YES, SURE.
IT'S A MESSY THING.

IT'S GOD'S WAY.

MIKE DEODATO JR.

H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER.
HOVERING OVER AVENGERS TOWER, NEW YORK CITY. THREE DAYS AGO.

SIR--

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU TODAY, MISS HAND.

WELL, DIRECTOR OSBORN, YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF OPTIONS...

YOU CAN HAVE TEN MINUTES FOR ME *RIGHT NOW* OR YOU CAN HAVE THE HOURS, DAYS OR MAYBE WEEKS IT WILL TAKE TO PROPERLY *REPLACE ME* AS YOUR SECOND IN COMMAND.

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME--

MISS HAND... THESE DRAMATIC STANDS OF YOURS...

YOU HIRED ME, FIRST DAY, YOU HIRED ME TO TELL YOU *HOW IT IS.*

YOU SAID IT'S *WHY* YOU HIRED ME.

YES, BUT--

SO *THIS* IS HOW IT IS: YOU AND YOUR AVENGERS ARE FALLING APART.

THAT'S--

AS I SAID BEFORE--YOU'VE BEEN BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS *AND* THE MIDDLE SINCE YOU *CREATED* H.A.M.M.E.R. AND, SIR, YOU HAVE A CHECKERED HISTORY, AT *BEST*, AT DEALING WITH HIGH STRESS SITUATIONS FOR LENGTHY PERIODS OF TIME.

AND I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT *YOU.*

I'M NOT EVEN TALKING ABOUT THE *REST* OF YOUR DYSFUNCTIONAL TEAM YET.

THE WORLD DOESN'T STOP TURNING.

THE JOB...IS ALL-CONSUMING.

YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

PICK ONE.

NAMES OF ADVANCED PSYCHOTHERAPISTS.

WHAT ARE THESE?

YOU TOLD ME TO FIND ONE--

MISS HAND--

--WHO SPECIALIZES IN HIGH STRESS--

NO.

FULL CONFIDENTIALITY.

NO.

NICK FURY DID IT.

NO.

TONY STARK DID IT.

AND LOOK WHERE THEY ARE *NOW!!*

YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN THAT NO MEANS NO!
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN THAT MY FATHER YELLED A LOT LOUDER THAN YOU CAN! SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A LOT BETTER THAN THAT TO SHUT ME UP!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STEAM-ROLL OVER ME BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL.
YOU HIRED ME TO DO EXACTLY THIS AND I AM DOING IT, NOT ONLY FOR YOU BUT FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY THAT YOU SWORE TO PROTECT.
AND YOU KNOW THAT'S WHY I'M HERE AND WHY YOU WANT ME HERE SO CUT THE @#$@ AND LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
THIS JOB IS ALL-CONSUMING, AND FOR THAT YOU NEED COUNSEL.
PROFESSIONAL COUNSEL.
YOU NEED TO WORK ON YOURSELF AND YOUR STRESS LEVELS.
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
PICK A NAME!
I'LL TRUST YOUR JUDGEMENT.
AND YOU'LL KEEP THE APPOINTMENT FOR--
YES, THAT--
YOU UNDERSTAND I DO THIS OUT OF--
YES.
SIR, IF I MAY, YOU HAVE THIS TENDENCY, AS MOST "TYPE A" PEOPLE DO, TO FINISH MY SENTENCES FOR ME OR ANSWER ME BEFORE I'VE FINISHED SPEAKING...
SO SURE ARE YOU THAT YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS I WAS GOING TO SAY.
YOU WERE GOING TO SAY YOU DO THIS OUT OF RESPECT FOR ME AND MY--
NO, I WAS GOING TO SAY I AM TERRIFIED THAT YOU WILL SNAP AND BECOME THE GREEN GOBLIN.

AND THAT YOU MAY HAVE BEEN SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF IT WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
OR EVEN SCARIER THAN THAT...
YOU MAY BE PUSHING YOURSELF THIS HARD AS AN EXCUSE TO DO SO.

I DON'T WANT THAT.
I WANT NORMAN OSBORN TO LEAD.
I WANT YOU TO LEAD OUR COUNTRY INTO A PLACE WHERE AMERICANS CAN LIVE PEACEFUL, FEARLESS LIVES OF COMFORT.
I THINK YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR GREATNESS.
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE SUCH AMAZING THINGS.

BUT YOU'VE ALSO PUT YOURSELF AND YOUR MIND IN TERRIBLY COMPROMISING POSITIONS.
YOU AND YOUR TEAM WENT THROUGH A TERRIBLE TRAUMA WITH THE MOLECULE MAN...
AND YES, WE WON THE DAY...
BUT AT WHAT COST?

SEE...RIGHT NOW MOONSTONE AND BULLSEYE--
EXCUSE ME, YOUR MS. MARVEL AND HAWKEYE, ARE ENGAGING IN INAPPROPRIATE ACTS.
RIGHT NOW?
RIGHT NOW.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

BECAUSE I CAN SEE.
IS--IS THAT THE SECURITY CAMERA IN THEIR BEDROOMS?
SIR, THAT'S THE AVENGERS TOWER MEETING ROOM.

YES. AND *THAT* IS HAPPENING IN FRONT OF ASSIGNED H.A.M.M.E.R. AGENTS.
AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, *THAT* IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS.
THAT, SIR, IS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION TOWARDS *YOU*.
MOONSTONE IS WORKING HER WAY THROUGH YOUR TEAM.
ACTING OUT. WHY?

TO GET TO YOU.
SHE ALREADY SCARED OFF NOH-VARR.
MAYBE.
WE'LL GET HIM BACK.
AND NOW THIS.
THIS IS ABOUT UNCHECKED AGGRESSION.

FIRST YOU PUT THESE SELFISH, DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE SAME ROOM...
THESE ARE *EXACTLY* THE KIND OF SELFISH, DANGEROUS PEOPLE WE NEED TO GET THE JOBS DONE WE NEED DONE.
TRUE.
BUT ARE YOU GOING TO LET IT GO DOWN *THIS* ROAD WITH THEM, OR THE *SMART* ROAD?

TAKE CARE OF THIS AT YOUR DISCRETION.
NOW, IF YOU WOULD.
I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT I FEEL I MAY DO OR SAY SOMETHING RASH AND UNPRODUCTIVE.
I HAVE FULL AUTHORITY?

YOU ALWAYS DID.
THANK YOU, SIR.
VICTORIA?
YES SIR?

FIND OUT FROM ARES HOW THE ASGARD PLANNING SESSIONS ARE GOING AND GET BACK TO ME.

SIR?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE PUTTING TOGETHER ASGARD INVASION SCENARIOS FOR ME TO GO OVER.

BUT, SIR, YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY.

YOU HAD YOUR MOMENT, VICTORIA.
DON'T PUSH IT.

HAHAHAHAHA!!

YOU'RE JUST THE DEVIL!!

AHEM!

OH, PLEASE.

WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?

GO TO YOUR ROOM, DOCTOR. HAWKEYE, YOU STAY HERE.

WHOA, WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH YEAH, HAND, IS IT YOUR TURN NEXT?

GO TO *MY ROOM?* ARE YOU SERIOUS?

DOCTOR, YOU'RE ACTING IN AN INAPPROPRIATE MANNER AND YOU ARE EXCUSED.

SISTER, ARE YOU HOLDING A GUN ON ME?

YOU *ARE* ONE DUMB--

AARGGHHGGHH!!

TAKE HER TO HER ROOM, PLEASE.

AFTER SHE'S DONE SPASMING.

GGKKSS...

WELL LOOK AT *YOU*, ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I *LIKE* THIS NEW YOU.

DON'T PUSH ME.

WHY DON'T YOU GO OFF TO THE GYM AND...CALM YOURSELF DOWN.

I'M NOT GROUNDED?

FOR LETTING THAT HARPY USE YOU?

NO.

IF YOU'RE TOO STUPID TO STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM HER, WHAT THE HELL AM I GOING TO DO TO YOU THAT YOU AREN'T ALREADY DOING TO YOURSELF?

YEAH.

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU IN YOUR SLEEP.

UH...

ARMOR?

ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT DETECTED.

WHAT KIND? FROM WHERE?

ANALYZING.

PUT IT ON SCREEN.

OH, NO...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

WE HAD A DEAL, ROBERT.

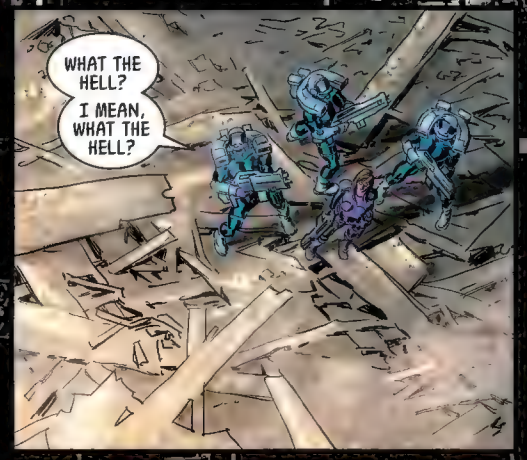
WE HAD A DEAL, YOU AND I.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING??
YOU SAID THERE WAS NO VOID.
I WAS WRONG.
CLEARLY.
YES.
SO...I GUESS THERE IS NO ROBERT REYNOLDS, IS THERE?
THERE IS NO SENTRY.
THERE'S A LITTLE BIT.

AVENGERS! HIT THE STREET!
SAVE PEOPLE! EVERYONE YOU CAN!
GET THE INITIATIVE UP AND READY TO GO!
CALL ALL FRIENDLIES IN AND GET WORKING!
THEN LET ME TALK TO HIM.
NO.
YOU JUST CONFUSE HIM.
YOU FEED HIS CHILDISH NEED TO BE A SUPER HERO.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN?
WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED THAT YOU WOULD DO THIS?
THAT YOU WOULD RUIN EVERYTHING WE HELPED EACH OTHER BUILD?

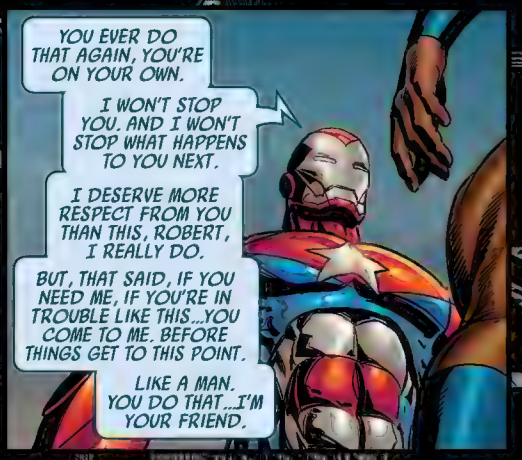
I TIRE OF IT, NORMAN. I TIRE OF FIGHTING WITH MYSELF.
AND THIS IS THE WAY OUT. I TAKE CONTROL OF EVERYTHING I CAN SEE.
I TURN THE WORLD INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE--
INTO WHAT?
INTO SOMETHING ROBERT REYNOLDS AND LINDY CAN'T LIVE IN!
AND THEN THEY GO AWAY!
LINDY.
A VIEW
I CAN'T KILL HER. I CAN'T!
BOB WON'T LET ME DO THAT.
BUT I CAN MAKE HER WATCH! I CAN PUNISH HER.
WHAT DID-- WHAT DID SHE SAY TO YOU?

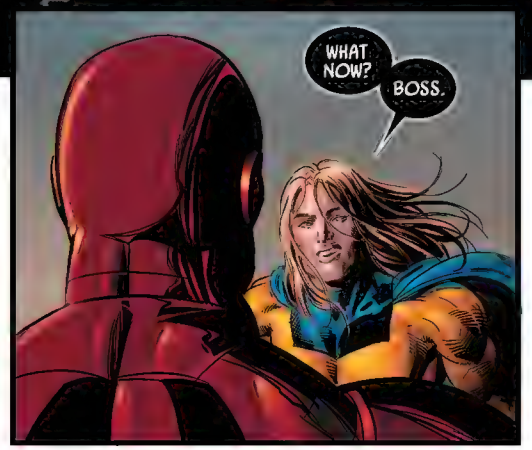
SHE'S NOT THE PROBLEM, NORMAN.
I THINK SHE MIGHT BE PART OF IT.
WHAT DID SHE DO?
LISTEN TO ME! YOU AND I HAD A DEAL!
A DEAL? DO I LOOK LIKE A CAR SALESMAN?
THIS IS A TANTRUM!
MM. MAYBE.
THIS DOES NOTHING! A CHILD CAN DO THIS.
YOU WANT TO CHANGE THINGS? YOU WANT TO CONTROL YOUR WORLD:
YOU LISTEN TO ME! YOU DO WHAT I SAY. I CAN GIVE YOU THAT WHICH YOU EVEN--

NORMAN, I LIKE YOU, I DO.
BUT YOU'RE TRYING TO MANIPULATE ME WHILE I AM IN A VERY FRAGILE STATE AND I FIND IT DISTASTEFUL.
MANIPULATE YOU? HOW COULD I MANIPULATE YOU?
I SAID YOU'RE TRYING. I DIDN'T SAY YOU ARE.
YOU WANT TO CONTROL YOUR LIFE? YOU DO WHAT I SAY!
THIS THING YOU'RE DOING HERE--THIS IS YOU TRYING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED.
WHO'S GOING TO KILL ME, NORMAN?
YOU?
NO!
BUT REED RICHARDS CAN!
TONY STARK CAN!
VICTOR VON DOOM CAN!
YOU'LL FORCE THEM TO!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT? YOU WANT THEM TO KILL YOU?!
BECAUSE YOU DO THIS-- YOU DO THIS FOR ONE MORE SECOND! THAT'S WHAT COMES NEXT.
AND YOU KNOW IT!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?!

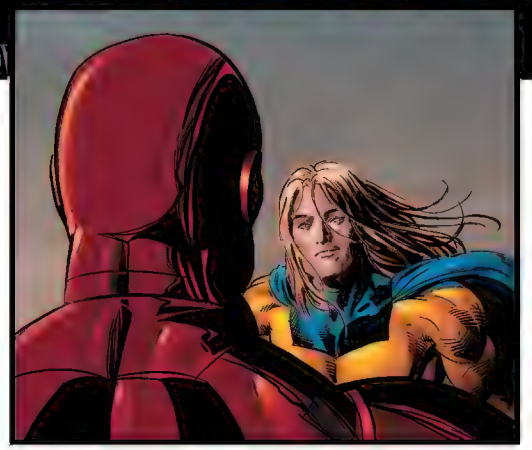

WHAT THE HELL?
I MEAN, WHAT THE HELL?

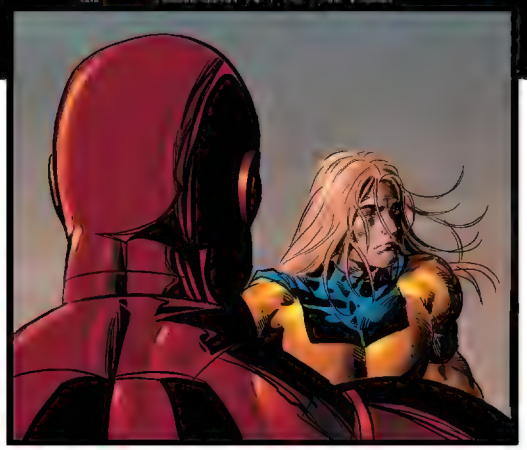
OKAY.
WHAT NOW?


YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
I WON'T STOP YOU. AND I WON'T STOP WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU NEXT.
I DESERVE MORE RESPECT FROM YOU THAN THIS, ROBERT, I REALLY DO.
BUT, THAT SAID, IF YOU NEED ME, IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE LIKE THIS...YOU COME TO ME. BEFORE THINGS GET TO THIS POINT.
LIKE A MAN. YOU DO THAT...I'M YOUR FRIEND.


WHAT NOW?
BOSS.

WHEN I CALL YOU TONIGHT...
I PROMISE YOU SOMETHING WORTH YOUR VISION OF THE WORLD.





SLICCEE SLICCEE SLICCEE
WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT* TODAY?
SURE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, HAWKEYE. IT'S UNDER CONTROL.
IS THIS ABOUT THE THING WITH THE BROAD?
STAND UP.
YOU FEELING A LITTLE BLOOD-THIRSTY?
ALWAYS.
WHEN I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL...
I NEED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING.
YEAH? WHO?
HIS WIFE.

MIKE DEODATO JR.

AVENGER TOWER.
TWO DAYS AGO.
THE CABAL.
OSBORN...
PRODUCE. NAMOR AND I WON'T HAVE YOU KILLED.
I SEE. ...
YOU DO REMEMBER, DOOM, I HAVE A WAY OF DEALING WITH YOU PHYSICALLY IF I NEED TO.
HAVE A CARE.
TO THREATEN MY PERSON IS TO THREATEN YOUR OWN.
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT.
PLEASE COME IN HERE.

LAST CHANCE.
IN OR OUT, DOOM.
COME ON, MAN...
WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT*??!!
I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN--!
FINE.
KILL HIM.

BOOM

VICTORIA!
THIS IS IRON PATRIOT. EVACUATE THE TOWER! NOW!!
THE ENTIRE--??
THE ENTIRE BUILDING!
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
SECURITY CAMERAS. ALL FLOORS. ALL STATIONS.
AARRGGHH!
THIS IS AGENT BULLOCK IN AVENGERS TOWER LOBBY!
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK! REPEAT WE ARE--!
CODE RED CODE RED!
FULL BUILDING EVACUATION!

THE QUINJET'S ON THE ROOF!
GO, GO!
ALL OF YOU!
WHY DON'T WE GET INTO IT WITH WHATEVER'S ATTACKING US?
THAT'S NOT THE ORDER!
FOLLOW THE ORDER!
WE ARE UNDER... AARRGGHH!!
ARMOR!!
ANALYZE THREAT.
UNKNOWN ENERGY SOURCE.
CAN YOU NEUTRALIZE THE UNKNOWN ENERGY SOURCE?
SHIELDS AT 44 PERCENT.
I DON'T NEED YOU NOW.
NOW I NEED BOB.
WHY?
YOU CAN'T BE SEEN HERE. DON'T ARGUE WITH ME.
I CAN--
I TOLD YOU--YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
GO GET ME BOB REYNOLDS.
BOB IT IS.

AVENGERS!
IN THE QUINJET, NOW!
YOU FOLLOW ORDERS!
I CAN DO AERIAL RECON.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF EVEN--
WHAT IS IT?! WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, SENTRY. ORDERS ARE TO--
TAKE MY WIFE.
GET IN THE JET! I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE--
WHAT'S HAPPENING??
WHERE'S NORMAN--?
YOUR ORDER IS TO STAND-- ARGH!
GUY DOESN'T LISTEN!
WHAT IS GOING ON?
YOUR HUSBAND DOESN'T LISTEN IS *WHAT IS GOING ON!*
GET IN THE QUINJET, MRS. REYNOLDS.
AGENT, IS THAT YOUR COPTER?
YEAH, I CAN TAKE YOU OUT OF HERE.
EVERYONE! GET IN THE QUINJET! NOW!!
I'LL TAKE HER. YOU MAKE SURE THE BUILDING IS EMPTY.
OSBORN SAID EVERYONE.
YES, SIR.
COME WITH ME, MRS. REYNOLDS!
WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE SAFE AND--
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT IS GOING ON?
HONESTLY, NEITHER DO I! BUT WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.
COME ON! YOUR HUSBAND WILL KILL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU.
PLEASE, MRS. REYNOLDS...
IT'S TIME.

WHERE THE HELL IS HAWKEYE GOING?
YOU TOLD HIM TO LEAVE.
I TOLD HIM TO--
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
THAT SON OF A BITCH!
LET'S GO! GET IN THE AIR!
WHY ISN'T IT WORKING??
YOU GOTTA TURN THE BLUE THINGY.
I TURNED THE BLUE THINGY.
I CAN FLY IT.
GET OUT OF THE WAY.
YOU HAD IT ON EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN.
NO, I DIDN'T.
THEN HOW DID IT GET IN EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT IS.
EVERYONE IN YOUR SEATS.
WHERE TO, MS. HAND?
FOLLOW HAWKEYE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL HE THINKS HE'S DOING, BUT...
DO YOU SEE HIM? I DON'T SEE HIM.
WHAT?
CHECK THE RADAR.
CALL HIM ON THE RADIO.
WHAT FREQUENCY?
WHAT WHAT?
WHAT RADIO FREQUENCY?
DOES HE EVEN KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?

WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
YOU OKAY BACK THERE, MRS. REYNOLDS?
UH, I, UH, THINK SO.
RADIO
ON
OFF
IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF NICE OUT TONIGHT.
UH, WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?
I GUESS THE BUILDING WAS UNDER ATTACK.
BY WHO?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
I'M SORRY?
DOES IT MATTER? IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE.
YOUR HUSBAND WILL FIX IT.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THERE'S A SAFEHOUSE. IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES.
IN THE OCEAN?
ON THE OCEAN. NOT FAR FROM HERE. EVERYONE WILL BE THERE.
THEY'LL LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WHEN WE GET THERE.
THANK YOU, BY THE WAY.
NO PROBLEM.
JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
HEY, UH, WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING MARRIED TO A BIG, FAMOUS SUPER HERO?
I'M SORRY?
WHAT'S IT LIKE--?
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO ANSWER THAT.
MUST BE NICE TO FEEL SAFE ALL THE TIME.
PROTECTED.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?
I'M HAWKEYE, MA'AM, I'M AN AVENGER.
NO, I MEANT, WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?
ARE YOU ALLOWED TO SAY?
OH, UH, BENJAMIN.
HEY, YOU GUYS GOING TO HAVE ANY KIDS?
UH, NO.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
IT'S, UH, IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME.
SORRY, IF I'M BEING TOO PERSONAL.
NO.
I ALWAYS WONDERED, THOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE SEES IN YOU?

I'M SORRY?

YOUR HUSBAND, HE'S ALMOST A *GOD*...

AND YOU-- YOU'RE KIND OF, WELL, *FRUMPY* IS THE BEST WORD I CAN THINK OF.

WHAT?

I MEAN, HE CAN HAVE *ANYBODY*. I MEAN, *I* CAN HAVE ANYBODY. AND ALL I DO IS KILL PEOPLE.

AND I SWEAR, I CAN GET *ANY* GIRL I WANT.

IMAGINE THE ASS *HE* IS MISSING OUT ON BECAUSE HE'S MARRIED TO *YOU*.

AND LOOK AT YOU. DO YOU EVEN OWN A BRUSH? OR A MIRROR?

GET BACK.

I MEAN, WE ALL KNOW YOUR HUSBAND IS NUTS.

BUT MARRYING *YOU* WHEN HE COULD BE DATING SUPERMODELS FROM NUMEROUS PLANETS...

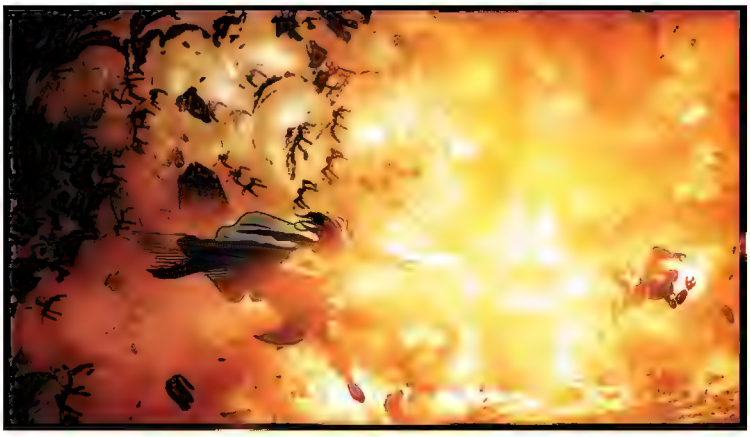
NOW *THAT* IS NUTS.

SLAP

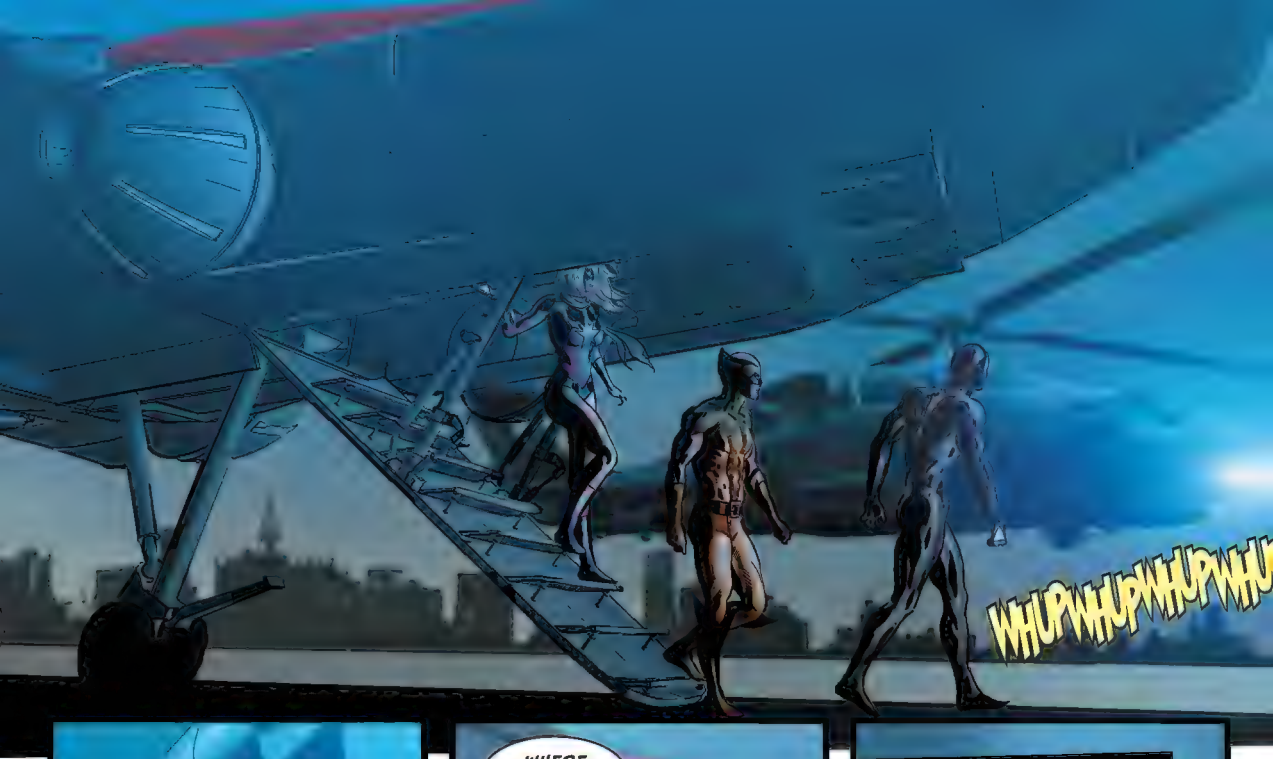
THANK YOU.

NOOOOO!!!

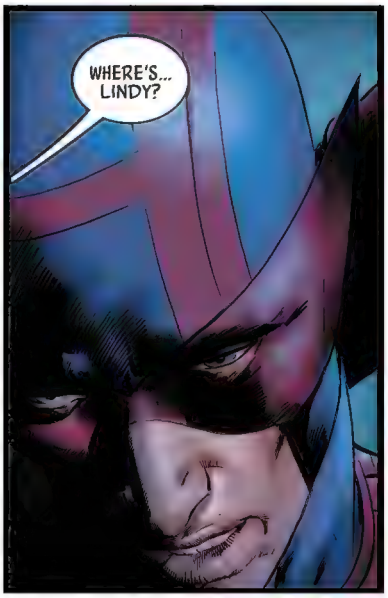
AH.



=COFF=
AGH!
BUILDING SECURE.


WHUPWHUPWHUPWHU

WHERE WERE YOU?
WHERE'D YOU GO?
WHERE'S MY WIFE?


WHERE'S... LINDY?

SHE...SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT HER LIFE ANYMORE.
SHE SAID SHE WAS... SCARED OF YOU.
AND SHE--SHE JUMPED.
I COULDN'T EVEN GET MY SEATBELT UNBUCKLED BEFORE SHE DID IT.
SHE JUST... JUMPED.

WHAT?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY WIFE!!??

YAAAARGH!!

HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

WHERE IS SHE?

STOP THIS NOW!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

YOU COULD KILL ME IN TWO SECONDS.

WHY WOULD I TOUCH HER? I TRIED TO SAVE HER!

SHE KILLED HERSELF!

YOU THINK I'D COME BACK HERE?

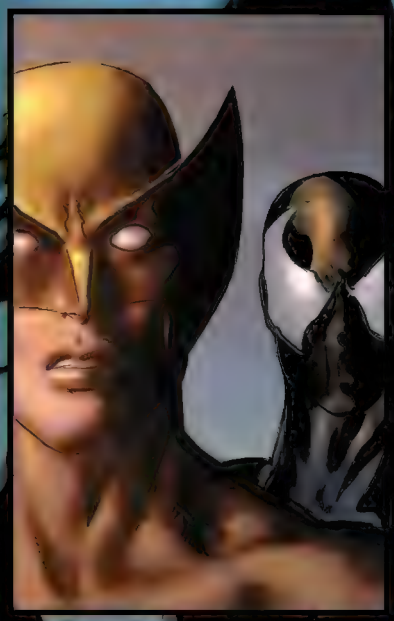
SHE DID THIS. YOU DESERVED TO KNOW.

WHO KNEW SHE WAS SO DISTRAUGHT?

I'M SORRY, MAN...

I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY, BOB.
HE TRIED.



COFF!
AGH!

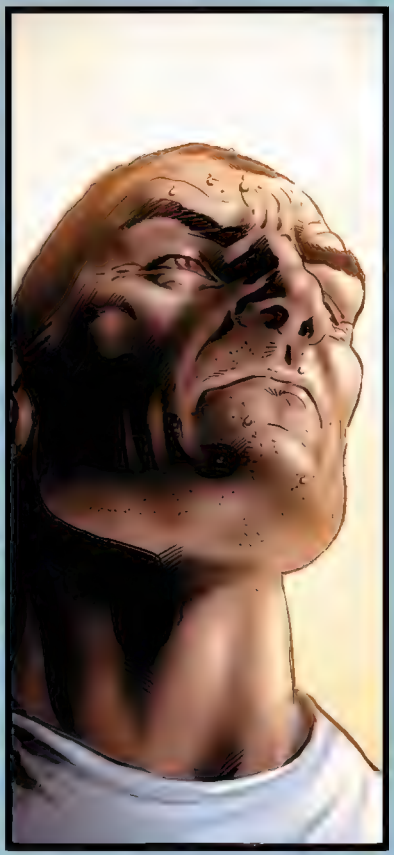
WHERE?
WHERE DID SHE DO IT?

WE WERE SOMEWHERE OVER JERSEY.
FARM LAND.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE EXACTLY.
I'M--I'M SORRY.

SEND A SPECIAL OPS CONVOY TO TRY AND HELP THE SENTRY DO WHATEVER HE NEEDS TO DO.
I WANT UPDATES.
SECOND, LET THE WHITE HOUSE KNOW THE TOWER WAS THE VICTIM OF AN ATTEMPTED LATVERIAN TERRORIST ATTACK.
IS THAT TRUE?
WHY WOULD I ASK YOU TO TELL THE WHITE HOUSE SOMETHING THAT WASN'T TRUE?

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
THE RAFT, RYKER'S MAXIMUM, MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.

GENTLEMEN. OSBORN. MY NAME IS CAPTAIN STEVE ROGERS.
THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO PERSONALLY SEE TO YOUR INCARCERATION.
SUB-BASEMENT LEVEL SEVEN WILL BE YOUR NEW HOME.
YOU WILL BE THE ONLY PRISONER ON THAT FLOOR.
ANY QUESTIONS? NO?
GOOD.



YESTERDAY.
THE SIEGE OF ASGARD.
HANDS OVER YOUR HEADS.
YOU PUNKS ARE OFFICIALLY WAR CRIMINALS. MAKE A MOVE AND I'LL SHOOT YA ON SIGHT.
WE'LL SEE, FURY.
TOOTS...
YOU BET YOU WILL.
I SERVED MY COUNTRY, SAME AS ALL OF YOU.
YA KNOW, SOMETIMES IT'S NICE TO KNOW IT'S TIME TO SHUT THE ##$$% UP.
OH, HEY...
I WANT YOU PEOPLE TO PROMISE ME HE PAYS FOR HIS CRIMES.
IN AN AMERICAN COURT.
HE PAYS. HE GOES TO JAIL FOR THIS.

SON OF A--!!

THIS IS DANVERS! MOONSTONE'S MAKING A GETAWAY!

I AM IN PURSUIT.

HA!

IT'S BULLSEYE! HE'S BOLTING!

EHAM

OH, GOOD. IT'S YOU.

BOOM

I GOT IT.

FFIIIZZZZZZ

HEH.

SMACK
SMACK

OH BOY.

HARUMP

YOU DROPPED SOMETHING.
THANKS, LUKE.
ANYBODY ELSE GOT ANY SHENANIGANS THEY WANT TO TRY?

MY NAME IS VICTORIA HAND.
I WOULD LIKE A LAWYER, PLEASE.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, COMMANDER HAND.

BROXTON, MAIN STREET.
DARK WOLVERINE.
LISTEN AND LISTEN GOOD...
BY THE ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BROXTON, OKLAHOMA IS NOW UNDER A TEMPORARY ORDER OF MARTIAL LAW.
THAT MEANS, U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL, AND U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL ONLY ARE IN CHARGE.
CURFEW FOR CITIZENS OF THIS ENTIRE CITY IS IN IMMEDIATE EFFECT.
AGENTS OF H.A.M.M.E.R., YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER TO THE NEAREST U.S. ARMED FORCES REPRESENTATIVE.
YOU HAVE NO JURISDICTION HERE.
YOUR WEAPONS ARE CONFISCATED AND YOUR TITLE IS DECOMMISSIONED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
DO COOPERATE.
YOU ARE ALL NOW FUGITIVES FROM FEDERAL JUSTICE AND WE HAVE ORDERS TO SHOOT ON SIGHT.
SURRENDER NOW, OR YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE FORFEITED.
WE WILL BE SEARCHING ALL HOMES AND BUSINESSES.
SURRENDER NOW. YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE NOTED.
HORODOWSKY, CHECK THE BARBER SHOP. MARCOS, CHECK THE BAR.
YES SIR.
ANYONE IN HERE? THIS IS THE UNITED STATES ARMY...
U.S. ARMY!
CHUCK

CLEAR.
WHY CAN'T WE JUST GO BACK TO OUR HOMES??
IT'S JUST FOR THE TIME BEING, SIR.
MY DOG...
WE'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR DOG.
HEY, GUYS... YOU HEARD THE SARGE.
EVERYONE IN FRONT OF THE MOVIE THEATRE. ASAP.
GUY CALLED IT, LIKE, TEN MINUTES AGO.
WHEN WAS THIS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HELL IF I KNOW.
GET YOUR GEAR AND GET MOVING.
WHERE'S THE MOVIE THEATRE?
HEY, WHO WAS THAT GUY?
THIS ENTIRE TOWN IS TWO BLOCKS LONG. SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND.
HELL IF I KNOW.
PING
CHUCK
VRAROOOM

FRAGBOMB

AVENGERS TOWER.
WHAT ARE WE DOIN' HERE, FURY?
GUY WANTED TO TALK TO YA.
PHOBOS, SON OF ARES.
I AM THOR.
YOUR FATHER, ARES, SON OF ZEUS, DIED IN BATTLE THE WAY HE MOST LIKELY WOULD HAVE WANTED TO.
AND AS IS OUR WAY, HE BEQUEATHED YOU ALL THAT WAS HIS.
HE WAS A MIGHTY WARRIOR, WITH THE HEART OF A LION.

WHEN YOU GROW OLDER...

HOPEFULLY YOU WILL GROW TO KNOW, YOUR FATHER MOVED MOUNTAINS TO TRY AND GIVE TO YOU THAT WHICH HE NEVER HAD.

AND HE DIED TRYING TO PROTECT IT.

HE WAS A SON OF A BITCH.

DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU TO NEW OLYMPUS TO MEET WITH YOUR KIN?

UH, NO.

AS YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WANTED IT.

BUT THAT WAS YOURS TO DECIDE, YOUNG PRINCE.

BUT KNOW THAT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, I WILL GRANT YOU YOUR WISH.

I TOO LOST MY FATHER RECENTLY AND I TOO WAS FILLED WITH RAGE AND SADNESS,

BUT I HAVE SINCE DECIDED TO LIVE MY LIFE THE WAY HE HAD LIVED HIS.

TO HONOR HIS LIFE BY LIVING MINE IN TURN.

I OFFER YOU THAT SAME WISDOM.

AND THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT YOU FIGHTING THIS FIGHT. THAT'S WHY I WOULDN'T LET YOU GO.

I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.

NAH, KID. IT WOULDN'T HAVE GONE DOWN ANY DIFFERENT.

AND IT HAPPENED BEFORE WE EVEN GOT THERE.

DON'T WORRY.

EVERYONE IS GETTING WHAT IS COMING TO THEM.

MISS HAND, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
YES, CAPTAIN AMERICA, I DO.
CALL ME CAPTAIN ROGERS.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE? IN PERSON?
NO, SIR.
I WAS ONLY A S.H.I.E.L.D. ACCOUNTANT WHEN YOU WERE LAST...ALIVE.
I KNOW.
I'M NOW WELL-VERSED IN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO VICTORIA HAND.
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF WE'D MET IN PASSING OR...
NO, SIR.
WELL, I CAME HERE TO SPEAK TO YOU, IN PERSON, BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT NORMAN OSBORN IS.
I KNOW WHAT ALMOST ALL OF THOSE AVENGERS HE PICKED OUT ARE.
I *KNOW* THAT. I *UNDERSTAND* THAT, AS TAINTED AND TWISTED AS IT ALL WAS, I DO UNDERSTAND IT.
BUT WHEN I LAY ALL THE PIECES OF THIS ON THE TABLE, *YOU* WERE THE PIECE I WAS HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING.
WHAT WAS SOMEONE LIKE YOU EVEN *DOING* HERE?

I WAS CALLED TO SERVE.
EVEN FOR A MAN LIKE THAT.
I WILL-- OKAY, I WILL BE THE FACE OF IT FOR YOU.
AS HARD AS THIS MAY BE FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND...I, AND MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, WERE VERY TAKEN IN BY A VERY CHARISMATIC MAN WITH THE PROMISE OF AN AGENDA I COMPLETELY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREED WITH.
AND I WAS VERY EXCITED TO TRY TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER AND SAFER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S INSANE. AND THE SENTRY...
YES, YES. BUT YOU SAID YOU READ MY REPORTS.
I WAS TRYING TO GET HIM HELP. I WAS TRYING TO FIX THE PROBLEM FROM WITHIN.
BUT HE WAS A RUNAWAY FREIGHT TRAIN COMING RIGHT AT MY FACE AND I FAILED.
I FAILED HIM AND I FAILED THE COUNTRY.
HMM.

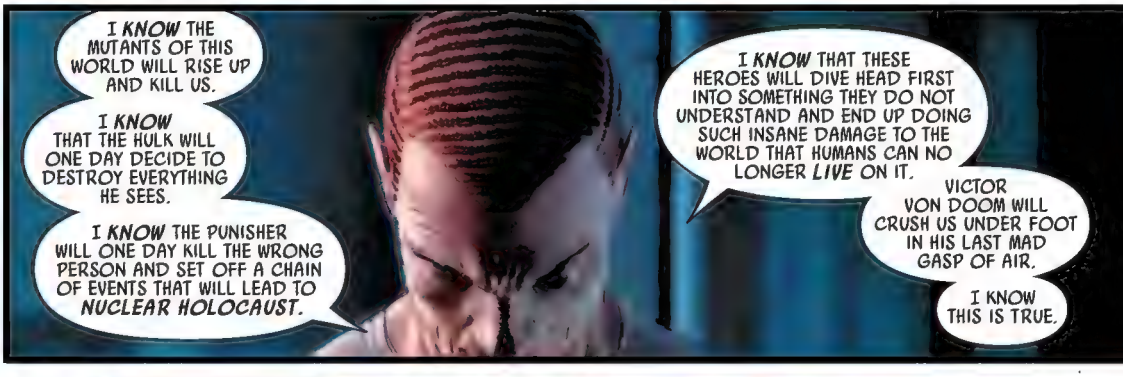
WELL, AS I SAID, I READ ALL ABOUT YOU.
AND I MUST SAY I FEVERISHLY DISAGREE WITH ALMOST EVERY THOUGHT YOU HAVE ROLLING AROUND IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS.
YES SIR.
BUT YOU ARE A PATRIOT. AND AN EXCEPTIONAL SOLDIER.
AND YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.
I'LL EXPECT THE SAME FROM YOU.
SIR?
TAKE A LONG WEEKEND.
SHOWER. GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF.
OH, AND CALL YOUR PARENTS. THEY ARE VERY UPSET.
AND I'LL SEE YOU FOR YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT BRIGHT AND EARLY MONDAY MORNING.
WHAT?

WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU CREDIT, NORMAN.
WHEN YOU SCREW THE POOCH, YOU *REALLY* SCREW THE POOCH.
YOU CAN MAKE FUN OF ME ALL YOU WANT...
BUT YOU *KNOW* THIS IS TRUE...

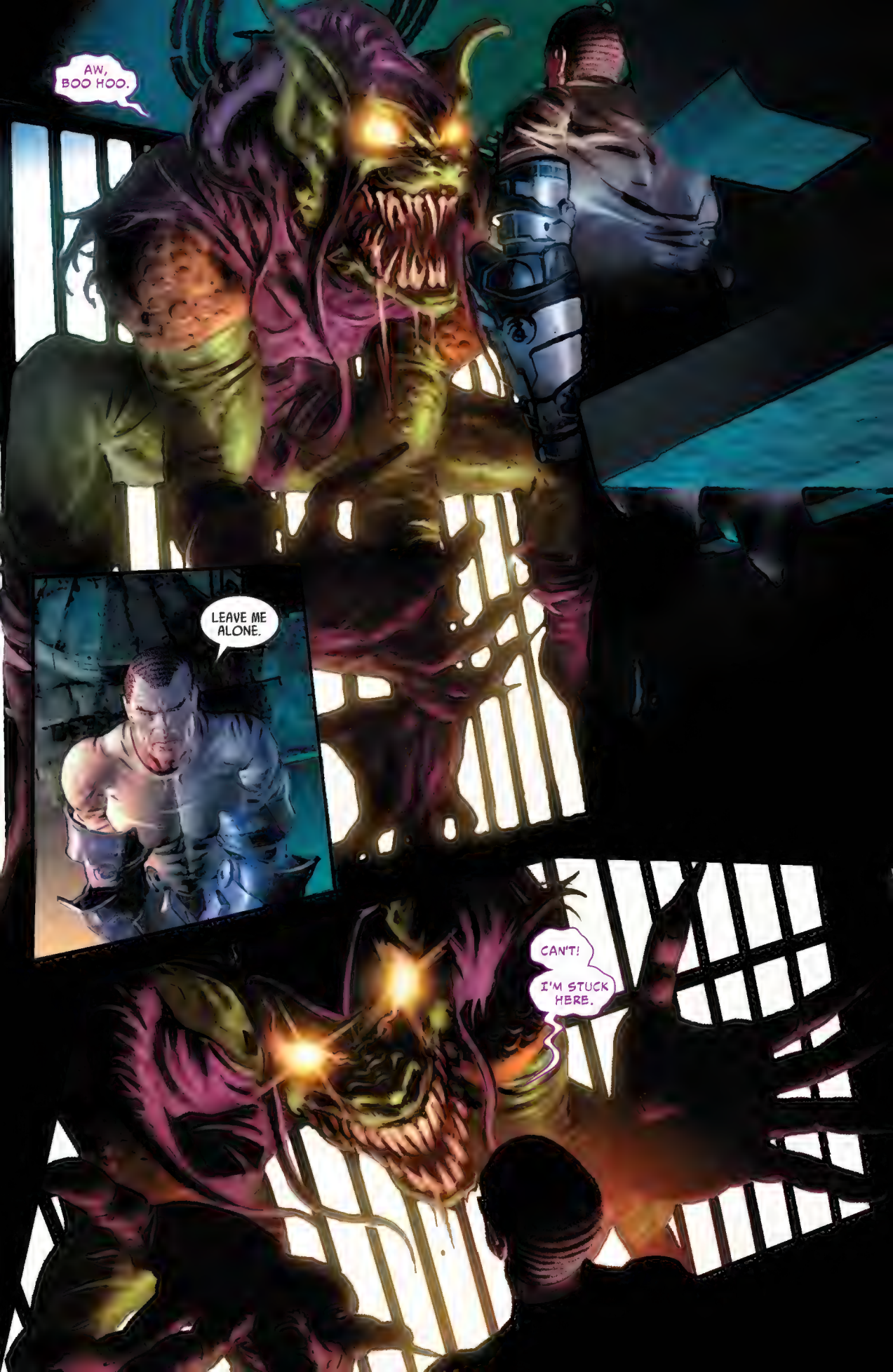
I WAS RIGHT.
THE WORLD *IS* A MESS AND THE WORLD NEEDED ME TO *FIX* IT. AND I *WOULD* HAVE. I COULD HAVE.
THIS WORLD IS A MADHOUSE OF MUTANTS, TERRORISTS, PSYCHOTICS, ALIENS AND MONSTERS.
ALL OF THEM CLASHING AND CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER AT EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY.

PEOPLE PUT ON COSTUMES AND JUST DECIDE, ALL BY THEMSELVES, THAT THEY ARE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.
THAT IT'S *OKAY* FOR THEM TO GO AND DO WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANT TO WHOEVER THEY WANT BECAUSE THEY HAVE A *COSTUME*.

WELL, I AM TELLING YOU, THE WORLD IS GOING TO END, ONE DAY SOON, IT'S GOING TO ACTUALLY EXPLODE.
THE WRONG CREATURE IS GOING TO SLAM INTO THE WRONG MUTANT AND BOOM.
THAT WILL BE IT.
ALL OF THIS-- ALL OF IT WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS *STOP IT*.
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS FIX THE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY HAPPENED.


I *KNOW* THE MUTANTS OF THIS WORLD WILL RISE UP AND KILL US.
I *KNOW* THAT THE HULK WILL ONE DAY DECIDE TO DESTROY EVERYTHING HE SEES.
I *KNOW* THE PUNISHER WILL ONE DAY KILL THE WRONG PERSON AND SET OFF A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WILL LEAD TO *NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST*.
I *KNOW* THAT THESE HEROES WILL DIVE HEAD FIRST INTO SOMETHING THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND AND END UP DOING SUCH INSANE DAMAGE TO THE WORLD THAT HUMANS CAN NO LONGER *LIVE* ON IT.
VICTOR VON DOOM WILL CRUSH US UNDER FOOT IN HIS LAST MAD GASP OF AIR.
I KNOW THIS IS TRUE.

I *KNOW* IT.
AND I COULD HAVE STOPPED IT.
IF NOT FOR THE FACT THAT YOU KEPT STANDING IN MY @#$@# WAY...


AW, BOO HOO.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
CAN'T! I'M STUCK HERE.

HAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHA
THE END.

Normy go bye bye!?

Boy!! Well, I'll be totally honest with you. I put this one off. I was waiting to the last possible minute to write this little farewell page to Dark Avengers. Because I didn't want to write it!!

Once you put the final 'thanks for everything' page to bed it means the book is officially dunzo. And I didn't want the damn book to be officially over. Me sad.

I loved writing this book! I did! I know writers always say that like they are legally obligated to but they are always lying. I'm not. I really had a good time writing it. It was the artistic challenge I was hoping for, I was surrounded by an always-awesome creative team of awesome people, and it ended up being one of the biggest hits of any of our careers.

Oh, and it should not have been a hit, by the way. You always hope for a hit but this is a book staring Jew fro-wearing Norman Osborn!! And, to our shock and delight, almost the entire time this book was in production it was Marvel's number one ongoing title. Starring Norman Osborn? That means one day somewhere someone will turn to someone and say: You know, Johnny, Norman Osborn was actually the star of the number one book at Marvel Comics?"

Now I don't know who this Johnny is, but I bet he'll be in slack-jawed disbelief.

Thank you guys for buying this book, for enjoying the book, and for arguing online about it until you were blue in the face. Thank you for loudly supporting this book in a way that probably said more about you as a person than you were consciously willing to admit.

There are a lot of people who helped make this stapled bit of awesome but I really want to thank Mike Deodato Jr. Mike and I worked together briefly on New Avengers and though that went pretty well it didn't match my personal expectations because I was such a huge fan of his. But very quickly into our run on this book that feeling went away and was replaced by, well, I'm not sure what the medical term for it is…but one of the symptoms is sitting alone in front of your computer and pumping your fist in the air and yelling: HOME RUN!!

Mike is gravitas!! That's what he is! Gravitas!

I am proud and honored that we were able to do this book together and I know I will look back on this fondly. But the one person I really thank, whose name you won't see in the credits…the person I want to dedicate this entire book to is Warren Ellis. I have said on record numerous times that more often than not Warren is my favorite comic book writer. And not only did he show me, and all of us, how cool it would be to put Norman in charge of something big and cool…he also showed me the best way to write for Mike. For both of these things I publicly thank you. I hope that you take some pride in this book.

Now I know some of you, like me, wish this book would still continue even though there is clearly no way in hell that could possibly happen. But think of it this way…instead of this book you're getting two new books to read. Now Mike and I will be splitting up (Me sad.) but I will be concocting the Avengers (!) with the mighty John Romita Jr. and Klaus Janson, which is another dream come true for me. And my darling Mike will be heading over to join my friend Ed Brubaker on a brand-new book called the Secret Avengers. I have seen some pages of Secret Avengers and it's an amazing continuation of the work he is doing here.

I want to thank every single person that makes this book including our amazing editors Tom and Lauren. Go check the credits of the book. Take a moment and bask in their awesome. Except for that Dan Buckley person. I've never met him. I'm not sure what he does.

Now, though, I am legally obligated to say: I promise you ain't seen nothing yet. I really do mean it. Both New Avengers and Avengers are on their way and I think they are both top-notch, super, quality, awesome, super hero books on every single level. So out of the death of this awesome welcome three new awesome Avengers books.

But I feel I can't leave you without giving you a secret I promised you the first day this book hit the stands. The big question…what is Norman Osborn's hair actually made of?

The answer? Two words. Tootsie Roll.

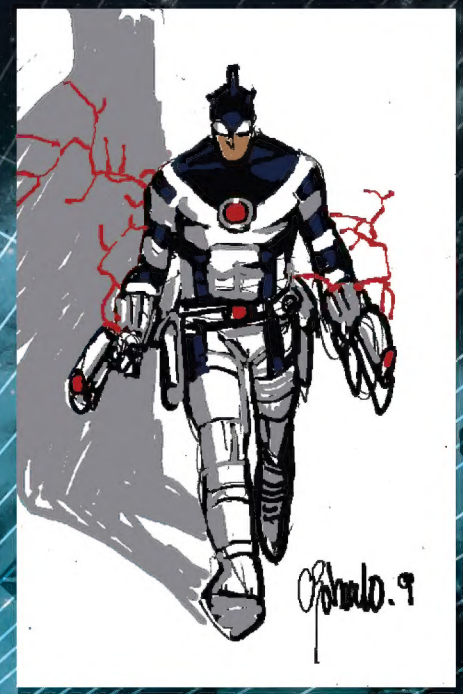
Thank you & goodnight.

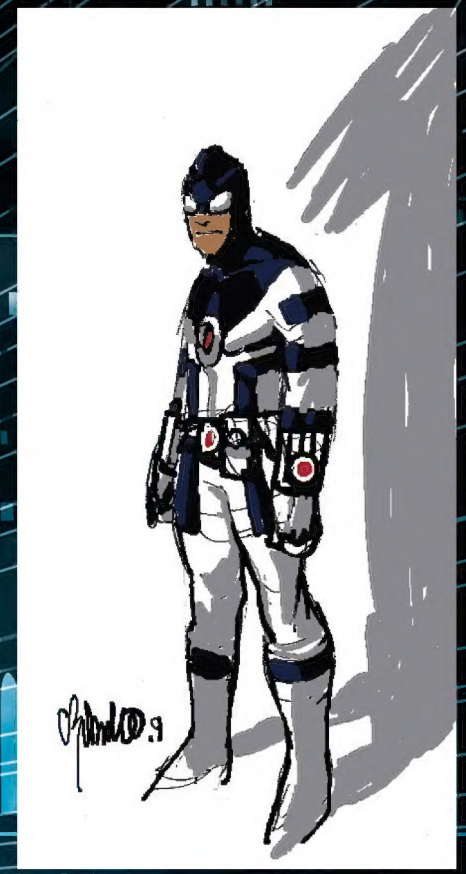
BENDIS!
Portland, Oregon
April 2010

13 SECOND PRINTING VARIANT
BY MIKE DEODATO

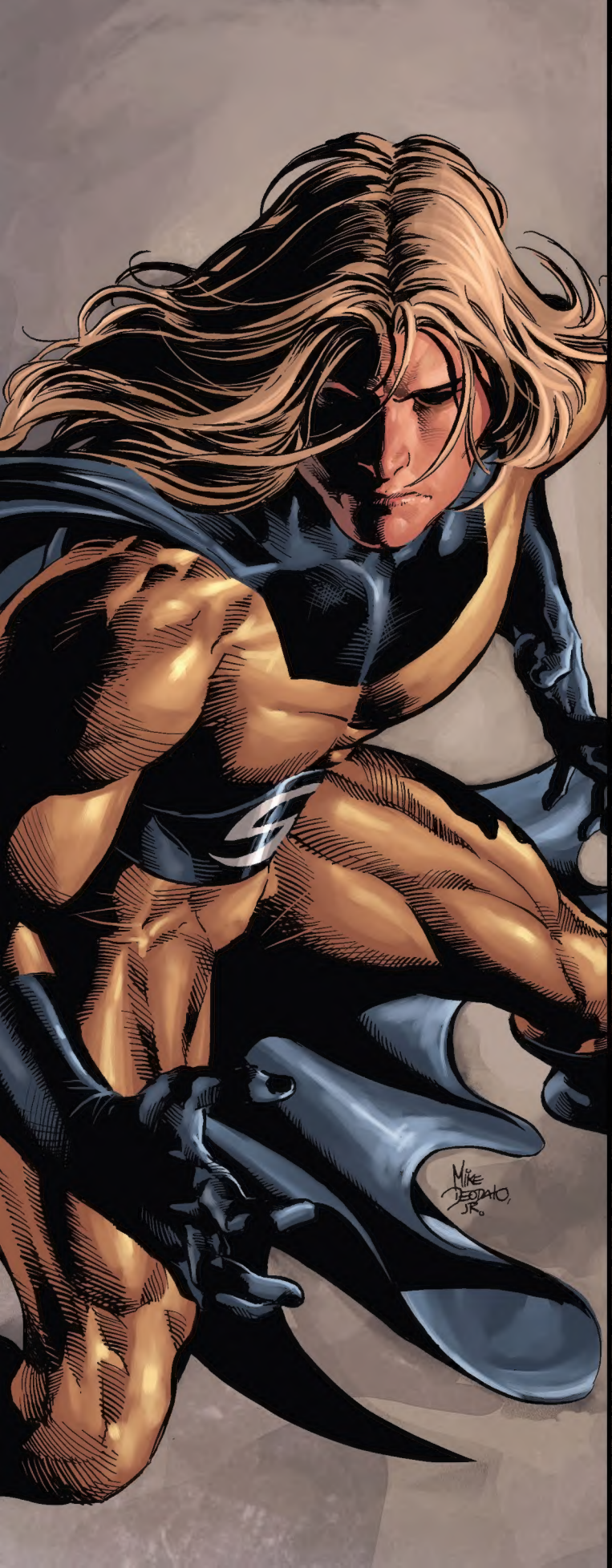
14 DEADPOOL VARIANT
BY MIKE DEODATO

CHARACTER DESIGNS BY CHRIS BACHALO





PROTECTOR DESIGNS BY CHRIS BACHALO



AS NIGHT FALLS ON NORMAN OSBORN'S AVENGERS, THEIR DARKEST HOUR BEGINS!

The origin of the Sentry is revealed. Bullseye commits an unspeakable act of murder. Victoria Hand wonders whether she's gone too far. And as he plans the final stages of his Siege of Asgard, Norman Osborn begins to succumb to the evil legacy of the Green Goblin — a mind-altering malady that may just be the thing that propels him to ultimate victory! Win or lose, these are the final hours of the Dark Avengers!

Collecting *Dark Avengers #13-16* and *Dark Avengers Annual #1*, written by Brian Michael Bendis (*New Avengers*) and illustrated by Mike Deodato (*Amazing Spider-Man*) with Chris Bachalo (*New X-Men*).

T+

MARVEL